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Advocate of Peace.

VOL. LXV.

BOSTON, DECEMBER, 1903.

No. 12

THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY,
PUBLISHERS,
31 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

MONTHLY, ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR. TEN CENTS PER COPY.

Entered at the Boston Post Office as Second Class Matter.

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A Treaty of Arbitration between the United States and Great Britain.

Now that a treaty of arbitration has been agreed upon between the governments of France and Great Britain, attention is turning at once to the importance of immediately securing a similar treaty between the United States and Great Britain. The Commercial Committee of the British House of Commons, which was influential in bringing about the agreement with France, is making a treaty with this country the object of its next efforts. Dr. Thomas Barclay, former president of the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris, who inaugurated three years ago and has been the leading spirit in the special campaign among men of commerce which has resulted in the Franco-English treaty, has been visiting this country with the Moseley Education Commission. He has been urging the necessity of the immediate negotiation of a treaty of obligatory arbitration between his country and ours, and has had an interview with President Roosevelt on the subject.

Such a treaty, it goes without saying, ought long ago to have been in force. One cannot help feeling a bit humiliated that our country should have to be

influenced from without to do what is its plain duty in this respect, what, indeed, it ought to consider a most honorable privilege. The United States and Great Britain were, by the prominent part which they have taken for a century in the practical application of arbitration, and in the setting up of the Hague Court, marked out naturally as the proper governments to take the lead in the introduction of special treaties of obligatory arbitration, as supplementary to the Hague Convention. This they failed to do, or rather ours failed to do, — for the British government was not at all responsible for the failure, — though nobody can give a rational excuse for the neglect on our part. Perhaps an inscrutable Providence permitted this failure, that we as a nation might be kept from over-exaltation on account of our excessive virtuousness.

It has been reported from Washington that President Roosevelt and Secretary Hay are both very anxious to have a treaty negotiated without delay with the British government, but that they will make no move in the matter on account of opposition in the Senate, which is said to be so strong that there would be no hope of getting a treaty approved by that body. It is quite past belief that at this late day any considerable number of men should be found in such a body as the United States Senate ready to oppose a measure of this kind so conspicuously in harmony with the best spirit of the times and so essential to the further advancement of our boasted Anglo-Saxon civilization. We cannot conceive of the Senate's repeating the blunder which it made in rejecting the treaty of 1897, now that the Permanent International Court is established and working so satisfactorily, and that France and Great Britain have set such a noble example in arbitration treaty making. Are we to fall hopelessly behind in a movement in which it was our pride to lead?

We hope that the administration will proceed at once to have a treaty drawn and signed and sent to the Senate. If serious opposition should develop in that body, as we do not believe will be the case, public opinion on the subject is now strong enough in the country to compel the ratification of any reasonable convention. Let the Senate be given at once another chance to show where it stands on this great subject. The President and Mr. Hay will find the nation ready to support them, and they will hardly be able to excuse themselves before the people of the country if they neglect to prepare a treaty

through fear of a small faction in the Senate. Let us have a little strenuousness in this case, where it is eminently fitting.

The Stated International Advisory Congress.

The proposition for a stated international advisory congress, which is to go to Congress from the Massachusetts Legislature this winter, continues to awaken much interest wherever known. A movement is now on foot in Philadelphia to secure for it larger recognition and general support in the State of Pennsylvania.

In its efforts to promote public sentiment in favor of such a congress, the American Peace Society recently sent copies of its memorial on the subject, with the action of the Massachusetts Legislature thereon, to the mayors of all the important cities in the United States. The following resolutions in favor of the project were unanimously adopted by the Mayor and Common Council of the city of La Crosse, Wis., on the ninth day of October:

"Resolved, By the Mayor and Common Council of the city of La Crosse, Wis., that the efforts of the American Peace Society to procure the establishment of an International Congress of all civilized nations, to deliberate on all matters of common interest has the hearty approval and commendation of this Council.

"Resolved, Further, that the establishment of such a congress as proposed would tend to promote the peace, prosperity and welfare of all humanity, and would mark an epoch in the progress of the human family.

"Resolved, Further, that the city clerk be, and he hereby is, directed to forward a certified copy of this report and resolution to the Hon. Robert Treat Paine, President of the American Peace Society, at Boston, Mass., with our cordial endorsement of the efforts made in behalf of humanity by his Society."

This action of the city government of La Crosse, a place of forty thousand inhabitants, was evidently taken on the spontaneous initiative of the Mayor, as no suggestion had been made by the American Peace Society with a view of obtaining the approval of city authorities. It is therefore a most encouraging evidence of the widespread and growing interest throughout the country in the establishment of more harmonious relations among the nations, and of the creation of such permanent international institutions as will render peace hereafter certain and war impossible.

We have not the least doubt that if their opinion could be obtained a large majority of the city governments of the country would pronounce in favor of the proposed international advisory congress as strongly as that of La Crosse has done. This action of the Mayor and Common Council of La Crosse is in line with the opinion of the project which has been almost univrsally expressed wherever the

nature and significance of the proposition have become clearly understood. No one, it seems to us, can examine thoroughly and impartially the list of international congresses and conferences published in the November ADVOCATE OF PEACE, with the explanations there given, without becoming convinced that a regular congress of the nations will inevitably be established in the future, and that it is only a question of time when it will be done. The general trend of international relations is strongly in that direction as certainly as it was toward the setting up of a permanent court of arbitration.

Panama and Afterwards.

We are accustomed in these days to sudden and unexpected events; but nothing recent has quite taken away the breath so much as the swift whirl of things on the Isthmus of Panama since our last issue.

A sudden revolution of the Isthmians, because the Colombian Congress had not ratified the canal treaty with this country; the Colombian authorities informed immediately that they would not be allowed to land forces or to fight to suppress the revolt; warships of Uncle Sam sent scurrying to both ends of the scene; the revolutionary organization at once recognized as a *de facto* government; representatives of the new "republic" sent forthwith to Washington to negotiate; the envoy of the "State of Panama" heartily received by President Roosevelt and the newborn nation officially recognized; a canal treaty with "Panama" prepared with a rush and signed, before any Panama Assembly had met; the United States "guaranteeing and agreeing to maintain the independence of Panama," before the new state was three weeks old or had given any evidence whatever of ability to stand or even to get on to its feet,—if this is not indecently hasty paramountcy and long-striding "high politics" of the most strenuous type, one would not know where to look for such a thing.

There seems to us to have been no excuse whatever for much of what the Administration has done, so out of harmony with the usual deliberateness and carefulness of our country under the present Secretary of State. Granted that Colombia has been as insane and selfish as represented; granted that the canal is demanded by the interests of civilization, and that the United States was under obligations to keep the Panama railway open to traffic,—this does not in the least justify the headlong and officious way in which the Administration has rushed the new republic into existence.

The simple truth is, laying aside all circumlocutions of expression, that the new state is a child of our violence, prematurely brought into existence by the overshadowing might of the United States. The impending revolution was known at Washington, and not discouraged—a very practical way of en-